The Import and Export policy for all individual items, including chemicals and intermediates, was reviewed by the Working Group on Import Policy at the time of formulation of the policy for 1985—88, and all the decisions were taken in conslutation with the technical authorities concerned. Due consideration was given to indigenous availability of the items concerned. Suggestions received for changes in the policy are examined in consultation with the technical authorities concerned.

Bharat Leather Corporation

531. SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA:
SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bharat Leather Corporation (BLC) has accumulated huge losses and despite repeated strictures by the company auditors and the Comptroller and Auditor General of India it has failed to improve matters; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps have been taken by Government to improve its working?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) and (b) The Bharat Leather Corporation has accumulated a loss of Rs. 186.31 lakhs since its inception in 1976. The loss for the year 1981-82 was Rs. 44.80 lakhs. but it declined to Rs. 42.16 lakhs for 1982-83, to Rs. 37.14 lakhs for 1983-84, and only Rs. 2.56 lakhs (Provisional) for 1984-85. There have been no strictures by the Companies Auditors or the Comptroller and Auditor General during the last three years. Government has been keeping a careful watch over the functioning of the Bharat Leather Corporation in order to improve its operating performance.

Amendment of the Indian Evidence Act

532. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government are considering a proposal to amend the Indian Evidence Act to provide for a rebuttable assumption that injuries sustained by persons in police custody are caused by the police officers in charge; and

(b) whether the Supreme Court in a recent case observed that when a person receives injuries while in police custody there need not be any evidence to prove such a fact?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ASOKE KUMAR SEN): (a) and (b) In a recent case State of U.P. Vs. Ram Sagar Yadav (AIR 1985 SC 415), the Supreme Court has commented upon "the need to amend the law appropriately so that policemen who commit atrocities on persons who are in their custody are not allowed to escape by reasons of paucity or absence of evidence". The Supreme Court also suggested that the law as to the burden of proof in such cases may be re-examined by the legislature. The Law Commission of India has already circulated a Working Paper on the subject for ascertaining the views/opinions of interested persons and bodies on the subject. The Law Commission will be finalising its recommendations on the subject after taking into account the views and opinions which it may receive on its Working Paper. Thereafter, the matter would be considered by Government in the light of the recommendations of the Law Commission.